

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12

SSM-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /077 W

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O 050128Z APR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0481

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, MARR, NP, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT: NEPALESE CONTINGENT FOR UNIFIL

REF: KATHMANDU 1733

1. UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING NEPALESE CONTINGENT FADED WITH ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK OF NEPALESE CONTINGENT COMMANDER, COL. SATCHIT S. RANA, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. NARENDRA B. SHAH ON APRIL 4. RANA AND SHAH HAVE MET WITH UN OFFICIALS, U.S. AIR FORCE AND USUN PERSONNEL LAST TWO DAYS AND IT APPEARS MOST OF THE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN SORTED OUT.

2. AIRLIFT PLANS ARE NOW ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS:

A.) FIRST USAF AIRCRAFT, (ALL PLANES WILL BE C-141'S), WILL ARRIVE ON APRIL 9 AT KATHMANDU WITH U.S. SUPPORT TEAM OF ABOUT 15. (THIS TEAM WILL REQUIRE ACCOMODATIONS
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UNTIL APRIL 16 WHICH COL. RANA WILL ARRANGE. CREW OF FIRST AIRCRAFT (7 MEN) WILL REQUIRE ACCOMODATIONS FOR NIGHT OF APRIL 9 ONLY. COL. RANA ALSO ARRANGING.)
B.) SAME AIRCRAFT WILL DEPART EARLY APRIL 10 WITH NEPALESE ADVANCE TEAM OF ABOUT 30 PLUS RATIONS AND ASSORTED GEAR. (EACH C-141 HAS A CAPACITY OF ABOUT 39,000 POUNDS, BUT WILL BE FLYING CONSIDERABLY LIGHTER

THAN NORMALLY; USAF PREFERS NOT MORE THAN 84 TROOPS PER FLIGHT PLUS ARMS AND CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.) ESTIMATED TOTAL WEIGHT OF NEPALESE AIRLIFT INCLUDING PERSONNEL IS 266,164 POUNDS.

C.) BEGINNING APRIL 11, TWO FLIGHTS WILL BE SCHEDULED EACH DAY FOR LENGTH OF TIME NECESSARY TO COMPLETE AIRLIFT OF 642 TROOPS COMPRISING NEPALESE CONTINGENT. ABOUT 5 DAYS IS ESTIMATED FOR TOTAL LIFT.

3. USAF PLANS TO SEND LIAISON OFFICER FROM EUROPE WHO WILL ARRIVE KATHMANDU ON APRIL 6. HE WOULD LIKE TO USE EMBASSY OFFICE SPACE AND FACILITIES AS AVAILABLE AND WILL PLAN TO MAKE IMMEDIATE CONTACT COL. RANA WHO WILL SUPERVISE ENTIRE AIRLIFT OPERATION. UNITED NATIONS PROPOSES ALL FLIGHTS TO LAND AND OFFLOAD AT TEL AVIV, BEN GURION AIRPORT. UN THROUGH ITS LIAISON GROUP HEADED BY MAJOR CRAIG (CANADIAN) WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. USAF PLANS TO USE 11 SEPARATE AIRCRAFT AND WILL PROVIDE PLANE TAIL NUMBERS AND NAMES OF FLIGHT COMMANDERS TO NEPALESE AUTHORITIES AS MUCH IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE. COL. RANA AGREED THAT REGULAR NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES COULD BE SUSPENDED AND 6 HOURS ADVANCE INFORMATION WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

4. ACCORDING TO RANA, SOLDIERS WILL CARRY WITH THEM
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PERSONAL KIT/PACK AND WEAPON WITH AMMUNITION. IN ADDITION, HE ESTIMATES ABOUT 4,960 POUNDS OF RATIONS (30 DAY SUPPLY), 300 POUNDS OF DEFENSE STORES, AND 2,100 POUNDS OF AMMUNITION INCLUDING MORTARS. RANA NOTED THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO KATHMANDU ON APRIL 8. HE CONFIRMED US UNDERSTANDING THAT AIRCRAFT MAY OPERATE OUT OF KATHMANDU ONLY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND ALL FLIGHTS MUST TOUCHDOWN AT NEW DELHI ARRIVING AND DEPARTING FROM NEPAL. A FURTHER RESTRICTION PROHIBITS FLIGHTS FROM NEPAL FROM FLYING OVER INDIA OR PAKISTAN AT NIGHT.

5. U.S.G. EFFORTS IN OBTAINING MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY NEPALESE AND UN. MILITARY TRUCKS (15 2.5 TON CARGO TRUCKS, WATER AND FUEL TRUCKS) AND CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. WILL BEGIN ARRIVING TEL AVIV BEN GURION AIRPORT ON APRIL 10 IN C-5A'S. THESE SAME TRUCKS WITH NEPALESE DRIVERS FROM FIRST FLIGHT WILL TRANSFER NEPALESE TROOPS TO SOUTH LEBANON. COORDINATION BETWEEN NEPALESE, UN AND USG NOW APPEARS WELL ESTABLISHED. COL. RANA'S TELEPHONE NUMBER IN KATHMANDU AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS 12204, 11260, EXT. 117. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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